

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SCCT-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-10 MC-02 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSM-05

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P R 091718Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4390

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS LONDON 12424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, LE, SY

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES INTERVIEW WITH KING HUSSEIN

1. FINANCIAL TIMES OF AUGUST 9 CARRIES TWO ARTICLES BY ITS CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL TINGAY REPORTING INTERVIEW WITH KING HUSSEIN. ARTICLES CONTAIN SEVERAL DIRECT QUOTES FROM KING HUSSEIN, BUT ARE INTERLARDED WITH QUOTES FROM OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS AND WITH ANALYTICAL COMMENTS BY TINGAY SO THAT IT IS NOT ALWAYS CLEAR WHEN IT IS HUSSEIN TALKING AND WHEN IT IS TINGAY COMMENTING. HIGHLIGHT OF INTERVIEW IS KING HUSSEIN'S ATTACK ON EGYPTIAN POLICY OF SUPPORTING PLO IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS AND HIS "IMPLICIT" ACCUSATION THAT EGYPT IS TRYING TO TOPPLE ASSAD. TINGAY QUOTES KING HUSSEIN AS STATING, "TO TAKE A POSITION AND ACT AS EGYPT HAS DONE IN THE LEBANON I FIND TOTALLY INHUMAN...I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT EGYPT WANTS IN SYRIA. IT CANNOT BE IN EGYPTIAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS TO HAVE

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ANOTHER REGIME IN SYRIA."

2. IN INTERVIEW KING HUSSEIN REFERS TO AREAS OF JORDANIAN AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT WITH SYRIA BUT ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO COLLUSION WITH SYRIA ON THE INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, AND THAT "WE JUST HAPPEN TO BELIEVE SYRIA'S INTENTIONS AND ITS ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE PEACE IN LEBANON."

3. RE PLO, ARTICLE STATES KING HUSSEIN SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH THE PLO HAS BEEN DISCREDITED BY ITS INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL ARAB AFFAIRS IN JORDAN AND LEBANON, JORDAN STICKS BY THE RABAT DECISION ON THE PLO. "BUT", ADDS HUSSEIN, "THE PLO MUST MEND ITS WAYS OR IT WILL DESTROY ITS CASE... IT SHOULD NOT BE A DIVISIVE INFLUENCE."

4. ARTICLE CONTINUES. "A JORDANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE PLO WOULD BE A PREREQUISITE OF ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BECAUSE ANY PALESTINIAN ENTITY WOULD BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LINKED TO JORDAN AND ECONOMICALLY LINKED WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA. KING HUSSEIN REMAINS FLEXIBLE BUT THE NOTION OF A RAPPROCHEMENT PRESUMES A CHANGE IN THE PLO LEADERSHIP WHICH MAY RESULT FROM SYRIA'S ACTIONS IN LEBANON." (COMMENT: HERE IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT TINGAY IS DIRECTLY QUOTING KING.)

5. COVERING ARTICLE BY TINGAY STATES HUSSEIN IS ABOUT TO SEE KING KHALID AND OTHER OIL-RICH ARAB HEADS OF STATE TO PERSUADE THEM TO PAY THIS YEAR'S INSTALLMENT OF THE RABAT SUBSIDY DUE TO JORDAN AND ALSO TO SYRIA AND EGYPT. TINGAY CONCLUDES, "IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT NON-PAYMENT OF THE SUBSIDY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF JORDAN'S ALLIANCE WITH SYRIA. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SYRIA HAS BEEN SEVERELY RESTRICTED BECAUSE OF THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON."

6. THE TINGAY ARTICLES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY THE FINANCIAL TIMES FOREIGN STAFF. EVIDENTLY INTENDED TO BE READ WITH TINGAY ARTICLES, REPORTING THAT MAJOR RIFT HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND SYRIA PRIMARILY BECAUSE LATTER HAVE TURNED AGAINST THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PALESTINIANS. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT, "ACCORDING TO SOME SYRIAN SOURCES, THERE IS ALREADY A TOTAL EMBARGO ON SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES," AND THAT SOVIETS HOPE ASSAD WILL BE OVERTHROWN.

7. TEXTS OF ARTICLES POUCHED TO AMMAN, DAMASCUS, NEA/IAI, AND NEA/ARN.

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